

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 429

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USMISSION USBERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GE PFOR

SUBJECT: GDR CHANCERY IN WASHINGTON

1. IN A RECENT WIDE-RANGING CONVERSATION, DR. GEYER, HEAD OF FONMIN NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION, VOLUNTEERED THAT THE GDR HAS SELECTED THE INSURANCE BUILDING ON WISCONSIN AVENUE ADJACENT TO JOHNSON'S FLORISTS TO HOUSE ITS PERMANENT CHANCERY, RESIDENCE FOR THE AMBASSADOR AND STAFF APARTMENTS. HE SAID AGREEMENT ON PRICE HAS BEEN REACHED AND THAT ALL THAT REMAINS TO COMPLETE THIS TRANSACTION ARE THE NECESSARY FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN CHASE MANHATTAN BANK AND A GDR BANK. GEYER WAS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE PROPERTY, DESCRIBING ITS CONTEMPLATED USE AS FOLLOWS: A CHANCERY IN CENTER, AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE ON RIGHT SIDE FRONTING WISCONSIN AVENUE, STAFF APARTMENTS ON THE LEFT SIDE, SPACE FOR 400 AUTOMOBILES, POSSIBLE SCHOOL AND GROUNDS FOR SPORTS.

2. GDR AMBASSADOR SIEBER TOLD US WHILE IN BERLIN ON CONSULTATION LAST WEEK THAT HIS PRESENT TEMPORARY CHANCERY ON 1717 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE IS POORLY VENTILATED AND BARELY SATISFACTORY. HE EXPRESSED ASTONISHMENT AT THE HIGH PRICE OF WASHINGTON REAL ESTATE. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE AND MRS SIEBER ARE FINDING LIFE AT THEIR APARTMENT IN BETHESDA'S "IRENE" PLEASANT

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